

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Probation	(2) MEETING DATE 10/21/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Jim Salio, 781-1039	
(4) SUBJECT Request to authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$24,000 on behalf of the Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission for the purpose of retaining an Employment Coordinator for the remainder of FY 2014-15 to provide services to ex-gang offenders during their incarceration and post-community release. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION Request to authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$24,000 using General Fund Contingencies and increase Professional and Special Services appropriation to fund an Employment Coordinator in Fund Center 139-Probation by 4/5 vote.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) General Fund	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$24,000.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$31,200 (If pilot program is renewed in subsequent years)	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR)  NA		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: 1415041 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: 6/2/09 and 4/1/14	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest, Administrative Analyst			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Probation / Jim Salio  
781-1039

DATE: 10/21/2014

SUBJECT: Request to authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$24,000 on behalf of the Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission for the purpose of retaining an Employment Coordinator for the remainder of FY 2014-15 to provide services to ex-gang offenders during their incarceration and post-community release. All Districts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Request to authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$24,000 using General Fund Contingencies and increase Professional and Special Services appropriation to fund an Employment Coordinator in Fund Center 139-Probation by 4/5 vote.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission (AGCC) Strategic Plan identified the hiring of an Employment Coordinator as an important goal in the re-entry and anti-recidivism process. There is no other position currently in San Luis Obispo County that is specifically focused on this ex-offender population, and the absence of a coordinator to focus on ex-gang offender employment, leaves an unfilled need and contributes to increased recidivism.

The Jail to Jobs Collaboration, which is comprised of representatives from San Luis Obispo County and local non-profit organizations, recognized two years ago that the failure to provide significant, focused, job-related counseling was a gap that needed to be addressed. It did not appear that the county's business and career one-stop, provided by America's Job Centers, was able to adequately serve this population due to staffing difficulties, lack of understanding of criminal background issues, and the inability of many of the offenders to provide two valid forms of identification necessary to access the most important services at the job centers. Currently many offenders leave custody with no valid forms of identification making them unable to obtain employment, apply for benefits or housing, and obtain other critical re-entry supports which make the difference between successful re-entry and recidivating. Attempts have been made at the County Jail to assist inmates in obtaining identification before release with limited success. The AGCC Employment Coordinator would make this a priority.

An Employment Coordinator position will enable the Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission to meet one of the most important goals in its Strategic Plan by making employment a central focus in the re-entry experience. This individual will provide both one-on-one counseling, as well as group counseling in the form of workshops which are designed to address the specific needs of individuals with a criminal background who are seeking employment. Providing job skills classes both during and after leaving custody will additionally help offenders design a positive road map for the future. The counselor will contact employers who currently hire individuals with criminal records, as well as recruit other employers who will provide post-release employment and/or apprenticeships. This Coordinator will make their services available at the county's local business and career one-stop, in addition to the County Jail and Honor Farm during agreed upon hours between both parties.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

This item has been coordinated with the Probation Department, Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office; department heads of which comprise the Executive Committee of the Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission (AGCC), as well Marci Powers, Coordinator of the AGCC, County Administrative Office, and Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The ideal candidate for this position would work as a part-time Independent Contractor at \$30 per hour, with no benefits. Based on these facts, the amount needed to establish this one-year pilot program and fund the hiring of an Employment Coordinator for the remainder of the 2014-15 Fiscal Year is \$24,000.

As this is a pilot program, additional funding for subsequent years will rest on the success of the 2014-15 Fiscal Year program and future Board of Supervisor approval.

### **RESULTS**

Many agencies and organizations affiliated with the AGCC have worked together to provide in-custody and out-of-custody programs which are designed to assist ex-gang offenders in successfully transitioning back into their communities. One of the remaining barriers to reducing recidivism is the inability of many offenders to obtain gainful employment upon release. That is, without employment opportunities and successful re-entry into the community, ex-offenders will continue to re-offend and pose an on-going, large expense to the County. The AGCC Employment Coordinator position is a low cost solution to making a very positive community impact.